

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 20

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 125

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 20—Relative to the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 5, 2003.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 20, Burton. The Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride.

This measure would endorse the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride and its goals; support and assist the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride in the state; and call on county, city, and city and county executive and legislative bodies throughout the state to adopt similar measures.

WHEREAS, California's history is synonymous with immigration of people from the nations around the world; and

WHEREAS, California has, and will continue to have for the foreseeable future, the largest immigrant population in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Immigration is essential to the state's economic growth, its social and cultural diversity, and the vitality of its civic life; and

WHEREAS, The security of our state is best protected when no one is forced to live in fear because of his or her immigration status; and

WHEREAS, The interests of the state are not served by the current immigration law which does the following:

(a) Offers no opportunity for many hard working, taxpaying immigrant residents to become legal residents, and eventually, citizens, of the United States.

(b) Imposes many hardships on immigrant families wishing to reunite in this state.

(c) Fails to protect the workplace rights of immigrants who are investing their labor in the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, A national mobilization of individuals and organizations that already support immigration reform, from the United States Chamber of Commerce to the NAACP and the AFL-CIO, from Democratic and Republican elected officials to the National Immigration Forum and National Council of La Raza, is necessary to restore the momentum for policy change that was swept aside by the tragic events of September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, The Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride, which will set out from eight major cities in the United States and cross the country in

buses in the fall of 2003, and culminate in delegations meeting Members of Congress in Washington, DC, and a mass show of support for immigrant workers in New York City, will be a powerful vehicle to demonstrate the existence of a broad national constituency for meaningful immigration reform; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby does all of the following:

(a) Endorses the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride (IWFR) and its goals.

(b) Supports and assists the organization of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride in the State of California.

(c) Calls on county and city executive and legislative bodies throughout the state to adopt similar resolutions; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

